



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/572,809

03/27/2006

Michael Keith Ching

4906

60333

7590

02/23/2010

EDWIN D. SCHINDLER
FIVE HIRSCH AVENUE
P.O. BOX 966
CORAM, NY 11727-0966

EXAMINER

REESE, DAVID C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3677

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/23/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/572,809	Applicant(s) CHING, MICHAEL KEITH	
	Examiner DAVID REESE	Art Unit 3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-26 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 27-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

THIS FINAL ACTION IS RESPONSIVE TO THE AMENDMENT FILED 1/20/2010.

- Claims 1-10 were canceled.
- Claims 11, 19, 27 were amended.
- Claims 11-30 are pending.

Claim Objections

[1] Claim(s) were previously objected to because of informalities. Applicant has successfully addressed these issues in the amendment filed on 1/20/2010. Accordingly, the objection(s) to the claim(s) have been withdrawn.

However, as amended:

[2] Claims 11 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities: the instant amendment to the claims, “between said first side and said second of said nut” should be “between said first side and said second side of said nut”.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

[3] The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(c) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for

Art Unit: 3677

patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

[4] Claims 27-28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Bardwell, US-1,105,123, because the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, or in public use or on sale in this country more than one (1) year prior to the application for patent in the United States.

As for Claim 27, Bardwell discloses an anti-tamper apparatus, comprising:

a nut (13) for tightening on a shank (12);

a cover (15) for at least partially covering said nut (13) for preventing access thereto by an unfastening tool; and,

locking means (20) for preventing removal of said cover (15) from a location wherein said cover at least partially covers said nut, said locking means (20) being positionable beyond, and not between opposing sides of said nut (13) for preventing said anti-tamper apparatus from being moved with respect to said shank for rendering said nut inaccessible, thereby preventing removal of, or tampering with, said nut when said locking means is locked.

Re: Claim 28, wherein said locking means (20) is movable within a bore (18) in said cover (15).

Re: Claim 30, wherein said locking means (20) is a pin (20) lockable to said cover (15).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Art Unit: 3677

[5] The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

[6] Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bardwell, US-1,105,123.

Although the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth 35 U.S.C. 102, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a designer having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains, the invention is not patentable.

As for Claim 29, Bardwell teaches that of the above claims.

The difference between the claim and Bardwell is that Bardwell does not expressly disclose of the locking means being a screw-threaded element. Examiner takes official notice that it is old and well known to substitute a screw-threaded element for a pin in such a combination. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have replaced the locking pin with a screw-threaded element to provide a known alternative means for locking a cover to a shank.

Allowable Subject Matter

[7] Claims 11-26 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

[8] The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. This application has been reviewed by the examiner and meets all formal and substantive (i.e., statutory) requirements and the language of the claims is enabled by, and finds adequate descriptive supported in the application disclosure as originally filed.

The primary reason for the allowance of the claims is the presence of limitations in the independent claims, which are not found in the prior art references. The examiner believes that the record of the prosecution as a whole makes clear his reasons for allowing a claim or claims. However, the examiner would like to point out one or more specific reasons and/or limitations that the prior art fails to disclose and/or make obvious. Hence, with regard to independent claim 11, the examiner is interpreting the claim requiring the combination of both the apparatus for preventing removal as well as the two construction element engaging components with a gap therebetween; the locking means extending, in a second position, from said body portion in a direction toward said bolt with said gap, with said locking means being located beyond said first side of said nut, and not between said first side and said second of side of said nut.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

[9] Applicant's amendment, see amendment and remarks filed 1/20/2010, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) under Brushaber, have been fully considered. Therefore, the rejection

Art Unit: 3677

with regard to Brushaber has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration of the amended claims (27-30), a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Bardwell, US-1,105,123. Consequently, all arguments are considered moot to said new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

[10] Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

[11] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David C. Reese whose telephone number is (571) 272-7082. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am-6:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached at (571) 272-6987. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is the following: (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/DAVID REESE/

Examiner, Art Unit 3677

/Victor Batson/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3677